CLAIMS:

1. A record carrier, the record carrier comprising a data storage layer including a relief structure for storing data to be read, wherein the relief structure comprises a data track (110) encoding data which is read-only, the data track comprising:

a sequence of symbols having nominal lengths corresponding to an integral multiple of a standard bit length (Δx_{clck}), the symbols having edges positioned according to a set of reference points (112) which are regularly spaced along the data track and separated by the standard bit length (Δx_{clck}),

wherein the data track includes a first such edge (116A), wherein the first edge is shifted along the data track, with respect to one of said reference points, by a first offset (120),

wherein the data track includes a second such edge (124A), wherein the second edge is shifted along the data track, with respect to another of said reference points, by a second offset (126),

wherein the magnitude of the second offset (126) is different to the magnitude of the first offset (120).

2. The record carrier of claim 1, wherein the data track includes a symbol having a centrepoint (124C) halfway between the edges of the symbol, wherein the centrepoint is shifted along the data track, with respect to a reference centrepoint (127) halfway between two of said reference points, by an offset (129).

3. The record carrier of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the data track includes a first symbol and a second symbol,

the first symbol having a first nominal length (116N), the first nominal length corresponding to a first integral multiple (n_1) of the standard bit length (Δx_{clck}),

the second symbol having a second nominal length, the second nominal length corresponding to a second, different, integral multiple (n_2) of the standard bit length (Δx_{clck}),

wherein said first symbol includes said first edge and wherein said second symbol includes said second edge.

4. The record carrier of claim 3, wherein the second symbol has a third such edge (124B) which is shifted with respect to one of said reference points, by a third offset (128).

5. The record carrier of claim 4, wherein the magnitude of the second offset (126) is different to the magnitude of the third offset (128).

6. The record carrier of any of claims 3 to 5, wherein the data track comprises a third symbol having the same nominal length as the second symbol,

wherein the third symbol has a fourth such edge (134A) and wherein the fourth edge is shifted, with respect to one of said reference points, by a fourth offset (132), the magnitude of which is different to the magnitude of the second offset (126).

7. The record carrier of claim 6, wherein the second symbol is separated from a fourth symbol (118) by said second edge and the third symbol is separated from a fifth symbol (130) by said fourth edge, the fourth symbol and the fifth symbol having different nominal lengths (118N, 130N).

8. The record carrier of any of claims 3 to 7, wherein the second integral multiple (n_2) is 3.

9. The record carrier of any preceding claim, wherein magnitude of the second offset (126) is between 5% and 15% of the standard bit length (Δx_{clck}).

10. The record carrier of either of claims 8 and 9 when read in combination with claim 7, wherein the fourth symbol (118) has a nominal length (118N) of 2.

11. A method of manufacturing a record carrier comprising a data storage layer, the method comprising:

writing digital data to a surface, the writing comprising forming a data track including a sequence of symbols having nominal lengths corresponding to an integral multiple of a standard bit length (Δx_{clck}), the symbols having edges positioned according to a

set of reference points (112) which are regularly spaced along the data track and separated by the standard bit length (Δx_{clck}),

wherein the sequence of symbols includes a first such edge (116A), wherein the first edge is shifted along the data track, with respect to one of said reference points, by a first offset (120),

wherein the data track includes a second such edge (124A), wherein the second edge is shifted along the data track, with respect to another of said reference points, by a second offset (126),

wherein the magnitude of the second offset (126) is different to the magnitude of the first offset (120).

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first offset (120) and the second offset (126) are determined with reference to a look-up table.